





GMM Objectives

- 1:** Increase the rate of Montana students graduating from high school ready for college and the 21st century workforce
- 2:** Establish a support network between schools, businesses, and community organizations for student success
- 3:** Create school-based and community-based opportunities to inspire students to stay in school and graduate



Montana Data

About 2,000 students drop out of our schools each year

This number is gradually decreasing

Our state's larger communities ("AA Districts") have half the population of students who drop out

Montana's American Indian students disproportionately drop out of school



2011 Legislative Priorities

SB 44: Raise the legal drop out age from 16 to 18

SB 141: Establish minimal anti-bullying policy standards to emphasize consistency, access and transparency

Budget Request: Funds for every Montana high school junior to take the ACT, to ensure all students have the opportunity to attend college, and to assess Montana students' college readiness



Superintendent Denise Juneau





Encouraging local GMMs

Locally-designed & implemented GMM initiatives with best practices of what works in Montana

All the AA districts have joined GMM: this represents one-half of all students who drop out each year

Missoula, Bozeman, Great Falls, Butte, Helena, Billings & Kalispell

Additional communities who've signed on include:

Hamilton, Belgrade & Townsend

Communities who have contacted us to assist in launching an initiative include: Hardin, Thompson Falls & Park City



Sharing What Works

- 1:** Share what is working in Montana
multiple community stakeholders; know your data; make a plan
- 2:** OPI Graduation Matters website:
<http://graduationmatters.mt.gov>
- 3:** Convening community & schools
Summits, community visits, tool kits



Sharing What Works

Butte is hiring a graduation coach, and is convening their 300+ freshman for a half-day career planning day which will include an I Pledge to Graduate event

Bozeman has over 500 volunteers working in the schools every week – mentoring, early literacy – and just launched Alternative to Expulsion, a school-within-a-school to support students who otherwise would be expelled

Great Falls has over 300 local businesses participating in job shadowing and plans to talk with businesses about what more they can do to support the initiative; is working with United Way Great Falls to launch their Graduation Matters Great Falls for late October, held I Pledge to Graduate events in all their high schools this month

Missoula lowered their drop out rate by 40% through better use of data, creating building teams responsible for attending to students' attendance, credits and early signs of risk for dropping out; is convening their 1200+ freshman at Washington Stadium for an I Pledge to Graduate event



Sharing What Works

Kalispell has hired graduation coaches for each building, and is engaging the local business community in both curriculum reviews and development of a soft-skill Institute to help high school students be more job-ready

Helena recently announced their initiative at Hometown Helena and is incorporating Graduation Matters Helena into their long-term planning process

Billings has convened multiple stakeholders from the business community, non-profit community leaders, United Way personnel and the Education Foundation to begin planning their initiative. Billings Education Foundation will focus their Educator for a Day event in November on Graduation Matters Billings

Townsend launched Graduation Matters Townsend November 1, 2011 with an I Pledge to Graduate event that involved local businesses and family members



Q: Who Convenes local GMM conversations?

A: It varies.

Community Foundation leaders, local United Way staff, main street businesses, local non-profit organizations are all playing a critical lead role with local schools... Convening, gathering data, mapping community resources, keeping up the momentum... Learning together.



Communities, businesses & schools planning their GMM





STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD




What students need to stay in school

- **Structure**
- **Relevance**
- **Support**



I Pledge to Graduate



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent
opi.mt.gov

To: Graduation Matters Montana
c/o Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501,
Helena, MT 59620-2501

On average in the state
of Montana, 5 students drop out
of school every day.
This is not OK with me. Something needs
to change. I can be a part of the change.

I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

I Pledge
to Graduate!

Make the
Pledge!
to Graduate

opi.mt.gov

Like us on facebook



